

REMARKS

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of:

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 as unpatentable over US 6,683,188 (Kasada et al), relying on the PCT publication date of June 21, 2001, in view of EP 1,103,962 (Sabi et al), and

Claims 6 and 10 as unpatentable over Kasada et al in view of Sabi et al, further in view of US 5,326,679 (Yanagisawa et al),

are respectfully traversed.

While Kasada et al broadly discloses various monomethine cyanine dyes for use in an optical recording medium (Formula 1), including dyes containing benzothiazole moieties (Formula 3 wherein Z is benzene) or indolenine moieties (Formula 5 wherein Z is benzene), no such dyes are disclosed having any of the three possible combinations of moieties now required by the above-amended claims.

Sabi et al has been relied on for a disclosure of dielectric layers. However, even if such dielectric layers were added to the optical recording medium of Kasada et al, the fundamental deficiencies of Kasada et al would not be overcome.

Yanagisawa et al has been relied on for a disclosure of quenchers. But even if a quencher were added to the optical recording medium of Kasada et al modified by Sabi et al, again the fundamental deficiencies of Kasada et al would not be overcome.

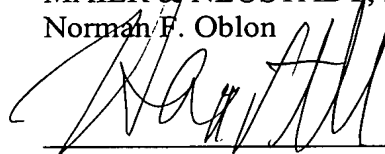
For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/657,244  
Reply to Final Office Action of June 1, 2007

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 11 and 12. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



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Harris A. Pitlick  
Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)

NFO:HAP